

November 5, 2023
Communion Sunday

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Please silence cell phones.

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

PRELUDE

Truth
St. Arbucks Quartet

Kamasi Washington

I won't point any fingers
I won't say it was you
I let life take it's time
Any time you see the truth

See the truth

CHIMES

INTROIT

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, forgive our lack of love for you and neighbor.
We do not live the faith we profess.
We judge others and go easy on ourselves.
We would rather be right than listen.
We would rather be seen than truly see.
We do not want to admit our need.
Forgive us.
In this meal, let your grace abound.
Fill our empty hands with your life and love,
Through the mercy of Jesus, Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.
A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.
Return to your seat by the side aisles.
All are welcome to participate in communion.*

* COMMUNION HYMN

Taste and See

Congregation Joins in the Chorus

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the
Lord. _____ O, taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord, _____ of the Lord.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, thank you for welcoming us and all people to your table.
Just as you have fed us with the presence of Christ, so may we embody
your love and grace for those we meet, through the help of your Spirit.
Amen.**

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

* RESPONSE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

v. 1



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove



Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness



As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Matthew 22:34-40; 23:1-12

A Bible teacher asked Jesus a question, trying to trap him. "Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

Then he spoke to the crowds and his disciples, saying, "The Bible teachers and the Serious occupy the very Chair of Moses. So do and keep everything they say to you, but do not do what they do. You see, they preach but they do not practice. They make heavy loads and pile them on people's backs, but they don't even want to lift a finger to help people carry those loads. They live their whole lives in order to be noticed by other people. They love head tables at banquets and the most prominent seats in meetings, greetings in the marketplaces and to be called 'teacher' by other people.

But don't you ever be called 'teacher,' for you only have one Teacher, and the rest of you are siblings. And don't call anyone 'father' on earth, for you have only one Father, the one in heaven. And don't ever let yourselves be called 'leaders,' for you have only one Leader, the Messiah.

No, your greatest person will be the one who becomes your servant. Whoever exalts oneself will surely be humbled and whoever humbles oneself will surely be exalted."

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

* RESPONSE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
See previous hymn

v. 2

SERMON

"Love Handles"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

1. & 6. Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5. When we sing to God in heav - en we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may
trav - elers on the road; We are here to
shad - ow of your fear; I will hold my
laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your
find such har - mo - ny, Born of all we've

have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

GIVING MOMENT

Lindy McGuire

OFFERTORY

Ave verum corpus
Chancel Choir

W. A. Mozart

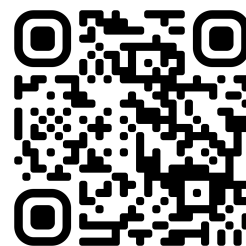
Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary.
Who has truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mortals,
Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood:
Be for us a foretaste of heaven during our final examining.
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus pure,
O Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy upon me. Amen.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, featuring four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

* HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1. I__ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me__ and rest;
2. I__ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I__ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I__ am this lost world's Light,

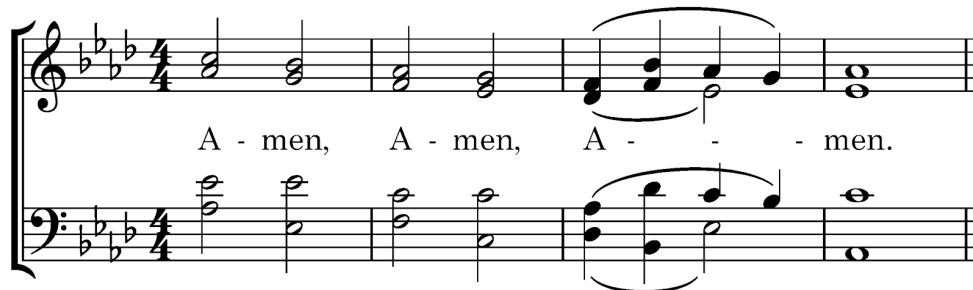
Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on__ my breast."
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I__ came to Je - sus as I was, so__ wea - ry, worn, and sad,
I__ came to Je - sus, and I drank of__ that life - giv - ing stream;
I__ looked to Je - sus, and I found my__ guid - ing Star, my Sun;

And there I found a__ rest - ing place, where Je - sus made me glad!
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I am re - deemed.
And in that light of__ life I'll go till__ trav - eling days are done.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Make a Joyful Noise
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Alan Viner

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the Postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

Following Worship, all are invited to coffee hour in the gym, on the lower level.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Nursery and Toddler Room, downstairs. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- Confirmation class fall dates are: October 1, 15, 29; November 19; and December 3.
- High School Sunday School class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month. Fall dates are: October 1, 15; November 5, 19; December 3 and 17. High schoolers meet immediately following the service in the Youth Lounge, downstairs. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up to date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Greg Clemons

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in memory and celebration of the beautiful life of our dear friend, mother, and grandmother Dolores Pifer.

BORN THIS WEEK IN NOVEMBER

We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

Nov. 5 Doug Roewer, Dante Carter

Nov. 6 Kelli Fitzgerald, Scott Banjavcic

Nov. 7 Chloe Combs

Nov. 8 John DeCoster

Nov. 9 Jae Renfrow, Kristy Tavas, Catherine Demery, Jareth Renfrow, Ava Grosshans

Nov. 10 Joel Chaiken, Daniel Pechnyo

Nov. 11 Hazel Grachan, Isabelle DeMonte, Mira McElhinney

UPCOMING EVENTS

See our full event calendar online at spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar.

** Events marked with an asterisk are in a non-wheelchair accessible location.*

Contact the church office or group leader for more information.

NOV. 8 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12-12:45 p.m., Zoom

Ecclesiastes: A Solitary Book for Solitary People. Ecclesiastes is full of contradictions, because human life is full of contradictions. After years of reflection on life, its writer attempts to hold that reality in balance - all is vanity and yet everything is a gift from God to be enjoyed. Join Pastor Jeff for a deep dive into this enigmatic book. RSVP to Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org.

NOV. 12 - YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH - 11:15 a.m., Courtyard

Come meet new people and have some meaningful conversations. We will walk to a nearby brunch spot. This is a group for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code or email us at youngadults@spucc.org.



NOV. 12 - MOMS GROUP - 11:15 a.m., Youth Lounge (east end of the Social Hall)

Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come once a month to gather with other moms with newborns through 10 years and support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free childcare by trained professionals is available in the church nursery on the south wall of the Social Hall. RSVP at spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group or contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

NOV. 18 – WINDY CITY WINDS FALL CONCERT - 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," invites you to our fall concert. Internationally acclaimed composer Johan De Meij will guest conduct his *Symphony #1 "The Lord of the Rings"* celebrating the 35th anniversary of this epic and enormously popular work inspired by the books of J.R.R. Tolkien. De Meij will also conduct two of his shorter works, including the *Windy City Overture*. Admission is free and the concert will be live streamed. Audience members can meet the composer and celebrate his 70th birthday at a reception following the concert.

NOV. 19 – NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our fall New Member Class. Together, we'll talk about faith and our community and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). Please RSVP here:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1754569

NOV. 21 - RETIREMENT GROUP - 10 a.m., Parlor*

The Retirement Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Please join us to discuss our transition paths, ways we found ourselves here, what's meaningful, and what's next with or without planned health, funds or companionship. For more info, contact Marcia Knudson at marciaknudson@gmail.com.

NOV. 28 – LUNCH GROUP: FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12-1:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun, and faith. Just come if it is your first time. Those who have previously attended should please RSVP via the group email reminder. Coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 26. During worship, we will give thanks for the lives of the members and friends of our congregation who died during the past year. Totenfest is a German word meaning "Festival of the Dead." You can make a memorial gift honoring a loved one online at the link below, or by any of our other giving methods. Please make your gift and email your memorial dedication for the bulletin to the office at info@spucc.org **by Monday, November 20.**

spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/totenfest

PECAN PIES FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Pecan pie sales are back! Our pecan pie sales will support the Youth Mission Trip. Pies are wonderful fresh but can be frozen (still wonderful)! Order and pay by credit card online **by November 19.** \$20/pie, limit two pies per person. You can also order a pie to be donated to UCAN's residential home kitchen. Pickup: November 20, 2-6 p.m. or November 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Questions/concerns, please contact Mary Brown, doddbrown@sbcglobal.net, or 847-989-5966.

Purchase your pies here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1975896.

UCAN GIFT TRAIN

This holiday season, the Outreach & Benevolence Committee is preparing to help St. Pauls participate in UCAN's gift train for another year! Stop by their table during Social Hour and sign up to shop a wish list. This year, we have requests for gift cards as well as specific toys and clothes. Gifts are due back at church **by November 26**.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

We are looking to have 17 scarves and/or hats handmade by members and friends to share with our Venezuelan guests for their first Chicago winter. The St. Pauls Handwork Group is gathering these and will provide yarn to anyone who needs it. Contact Lynn Dykstra Davis at Lrdykstra@aol.com if you would like to contribute a scarf or hat. You can drop off completed items at the office.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important ongoing contributions of Native people. One of these is the creation of the Iroquois Confederacy, often known as the Haudenosaunee or Six Nations. This confederation, formed around the 12th century, served as an early model for democratic governance in North America. Its constitution, known as the Great Law of Peace, inspired elements of the United States Constitution, including the concept of a federal system and representative government. This example of Indigenous political innovation has had a lasting impact on American history and governance.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Leaving the Leaves (adapted from the New York Times, October 20, 2023)

A pile of autumn leaves is home to an entire ecosystem, such as invisible fungi and microbes, and is particularly important in the life cycle of pollinators, such as moths and butterflies, who may rely on the leaf layer to over-winter and emerge in the spring. The organic matter from the decomposed leaves amends Chicago's poor soil without needing to use fertilizers. It also helps increase water absorption and naturally abate run off. Leave the leaves on the lawn in a natural carpet, if possible. Short of that, distribute them under trees or elsewhere in the garden in a thin carpet.

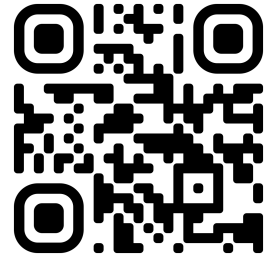
PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides three months of sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. Pastor Matt is on sabbatical until December 16.

PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2024

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2024! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2024, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

Important Note: If your pledged financial support for 2024 is changing from this year, and you have a current recurring donation set up through one of our donation options, please adjust your recurring donation accordingly. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as St. Pauls.

If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 73. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your 401K; it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to Committee chair Sally Fletcher at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

BASKETBALL – Now on Wednesdays. Join us for a weekly pickup game! All skill levels welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

BIBLE STUDY – Starting again November 1. Weekly on Wednesdays, noon to 1p.m. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Jeff for the Zoom link, jcarlson@spucc.org.

THE BOOK NOOK – Find your next good read or drop off books to share in the Social Hall. Donations are welcome – just add them to the shelf for “New Arrivals” or leave them on the floor next to the bookcase. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions, contact Linda Nitzsche, lindanitz@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVERS' GROUP – A caregiving role can be a source of love, joy and considerable stress, but it's easier when it doesn't feel like you're the only one. The St. Pauls Caregivers' Group is an informal support group of people who are responsible for the care of parents, partners, friends, or children with illnesses or disabilities. We gather via Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. to listen, share, empathize, and encourage. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to be added to the email list.

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our portal for St. Pauls members and friends. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

CHURCH SCHOOL

God created us to be creative and to create! This is our theme for Church School this year. Each child will learn that they were created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. Please fill out the one-time registration for the '23-'24 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org.

Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – Follow this link for additional information: spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

GREEN TEAM – As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to “Care for Creation.” To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at nlanda05@yahoo.com or Rick Peterson at rnpeterson2017@gmail.com.

HANDWORK MEET-UP – If you enjoy handwork, you’re invited to sit together and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group. We gather in a corner of the Social Hall for one hour after the worship service. New to handwork? We have expert knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers to help you get started with a project. We also welcome admirers of handwork should you wish to pull up a chair and join the conversation!

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We have limited spots remaining for the 2023/24 school year. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes

PICKLEBALL – Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every week. Sign up at the Church Center link below and show up at one of the allotted times! We have spare paddles and balls. All skill levels are invited. If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. Game Times: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 p.m; Fridays: 2-3:45 p.m.
spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball

ST. PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar: spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social.

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyball11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

UCC DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE

Every day there is a scripture passage and reflection that you can sign up to receive in your inbox! This is a great way to make time to reflect on God each day and grow in your faith. To sign-up visit ucc.org/daily-devotional.

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code or email us at youngadults@spucc.org.



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWSLETTER – Make sure you stay in the know with youth events! A weekly email is sent to parents to share activities, including Sunday School lessons and other useful news. Please contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org to be added to the list.

YOUTH CHOIRS – If your child has any interest in music, please join us! Kecia Waldschmidt is leading Paul's People for 4th-8th graders. Breanna Coe and Karen Johnson are leading the Children's Choir for kids K-3rd grade. Rehearsals are 9:30 on Sunday mornings during the school year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. There are still many dates available this year!

Sign up for 2023 dates at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246.

Sign up for 2024 flowers here:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967767

COMMON PANTRY COMMUNION SUNDAYS – We're collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - usually the first Sunday of the month. See their wish list for most-needed items here: commonpantry.org/donations. Modest sized products are best for distribution (e.g., a few 24 oz. containers of cooking oil are preferable to a 64 oz. container). Leave items in the Narthex bin.

CALL FOR LIVE STREAM VOLUNTEERS

Love all things digital, especially fancy devices? Got a knack for capturing special moments on camera? Love to chat with family, friends and others? Want to contribute to a key outreach effort of St. Pauls? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the St. Pauls Streaming Team needs you. Our team is expanding its mission and can use your help. If interested, come see us in the balcony after the service or reach out to Brian Hafner (bhafner2@att.net) or Bob Ball (Robert.f.ball@outlook.com).

CONSIDER THE LILIES - Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join the team that delivers our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. The flower ministry is flexible and meant to be an easy and rewarding experience. Team members sign up for approximately one Sunday every three months. It is amazing how this simple gesture brings such joy and feelings of love to the recipient – not to mention the joy and love experienced by the deliverer. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please email lilies@spucc.org.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDS NEEDED FOR OLDER ADULTS – We are looking for volunteers to drive some older adults to church and accompany one of our congregants to church on Sunday mornings on the Pace bus round trip from their nursing facility. This is a great way for you to make a real difference for a fellow member. For questions or more information, please contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

GREETING TEAM – Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? Arrive at 9:30 a.m. and meet with ushers in the Narthex for quick announcements and a prayer. Then stand at the church doors and say “Hello” to attendees, greeting them with a smile, warm welcome and cheerfulness. The ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and distribute worship bulletins. Sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2003199

LPCS VOLUNTEERING – Lincoln Park Community Services has a new volunteer opportunity on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. You will prepare LPCS-provided lunches for their street outreach program and welcome folks coming for drop-in services. To learn more about this program, contact volunteer coordinator Lynne Brenan at lynnebrenan@yahoo.com or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx.

POP TAB PROGRAM: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY – Help support the Ronald McDonald Charities by saving aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, canned foods, pet food, etc. Find a container and start collecting. Bring your pop tab donations to the Social Hall and add them to our collection bin. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young children to helping others and recycling. Little things like pop tabs can make a big difference!

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up for 2023 here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612. Sign up for 2024 reading here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. You are welcome to share personal announcements and other event invitations in our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SPECIAL MUSIC 2023-2024 “MASS APPEAL”

Once again, there is a theme for special music during the 2023-2024 season offered by our Chancel Choir during our 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship services. Please add these dates to your calendar and please invite your friends to join us in person or online at spucc.org/streaming.

Mass Appeal is a way to look at one of the oldest forms of Christian liturgical worship in three very different ways. The goal is to share how the words of the liturgical Mass can be expressed in varied musical styles but always with the same goal: expressing the spiritual joy, longing, majesty, and supplication.

Sunday, December 3, 2023 - *St. Francis in the Americas - A Caribbean Mass* composed in 1997 by Glenn McClure. This joyfully rhythmic Mass setting is a perfect expression of the journey from the anticipation of Advent to the birth of Jesus on Christmas. It is accompanied by a steel drum band.

Sunday, March 17, 2024 - *Messe solennelle* by Louis Vierne. This French Romantic setting in Latin was composed for choir and organ in 1899. It showcases beautiful and majestic writing for both choir and a pipe organ with the breadth of colors available on our Phoenix and the talents of Kevin Dzierzawski.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *A Gospel Mass* was composed in 1982 by Robert Ray. This wonderful setting, largely in English, marries the spiritual energy and uplift of Gospel music with the timeless words of the Mass ordinary. This gives us a chance to showcase not only the Chancel Choir, but also our incredible St. Arbucks Quartet.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Truth is the opening song on the 2017 EP, *Harmony of Difference*, by Kamasi Washington (b.1981). Mr Washington is a jazz saxophonist, born and raised in Los Angeles. He studied in the Department of Ethnomusicology at UCLA. As a student, he was invited to play with a faculty quartet. In addition to his solo career, he has collaborated with musicians in jazz, hip-hop and pop music.

Our Introit, ***Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*** is a chant from the Latin, ADORO TE DEVOTE, from the 13th century attributed to the Benedictines at the monastery at Solesmes, France. Its English text is by Horace Bonar (1808–1889), a

Scottish minister, who wrote many poetic hymn texts. This setting is especially appropriate for a communion Sunday.

The text for ***As We Gather at Your Table*** was written in 1989 by Carl P. Daw Jr. (b. 1944). Daw, the son of a Baptist minister, has a PhD in English literature. He has penned several hymn texts. The tune, BEACH SPRING, is attributed to Benjamin F. White (1800-1879) and was first found in the great American shape-note hymnal, *The Sacred Harp*, which dates from 1844.

Taste and See, both the text and tune, I WILL BLESS THE LORD AT ALL TIMES, were composed and written by James E. Moore (b. 1951) and was first published in 1983. Moore is a Black Catholic composer. A native of Virginia, he now resides, teaches and conducts a professional choir in Vienna. The text is a contemporary communion hymn.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, tune FAITHFULNESS, dates from 1923 and was composed by William M. Runyan (1870-1957). He finished his ministry in Kansas and was particularly fond of the poet Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960), who wrote this text. Runyan set 25 of Chisholm's poems to music. Chisholm based this text on Lamentation 3:22 & 23: "*Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed.*"

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant, tune title THE SERVANT SONG, is a relatively new hymn composed in 1977 by Richard Gillard (b. 1953). Gillard was born in England, but moved to New Zealand when he was only 3 years old. He is a self-trained musician.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) composed this communion motet, ***Ave verum corpus***, to a text from the 13th century by Pope Innocent III or IV. This prayer recalls Christ's sacrifice on the cross and where that sacrifice leads us as believers.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, tune KINGSFOLD, first appeared in a 19th century collection of English folk melodies, but may date back to the Middle Ages. The text was composed by Scottish clergyman, Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). He came from a long line of ministers and composed many hymn texts and religious poems.

Make a Joyful Noise is certainly an appropriate organ work for St. Pauls nearly anytime, because it incorporates our motto, *Making a Joyful Sound in the City*. Alan Viner (b. 1951) is an English organist, accompanist, composer, and choir director. He was formerly the Director of Music at the Priory Boys Grammar School and Wakernan School in Shrewsbury, England.

ST. PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it.

If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- Karin Magnuson at the loss of her father.
- Family and friends of Carl Braun, father of Ryan Braun, at his death
- Pat Kirby, battling drug-resistant pneumonia.
- Sister-in-law of Gloria Joseph, dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
- Leslie, sister of Mary Stainton, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Cheryl Kennedy, recovering from a heart attack.
- Family and friends at the death of Bob Knuti.
- Thomas Wikman, beloved conductor and founder of Music of the Baroque, who passed away October 9.
- Students and staff of the GCE school in Chicago, which recently closed.
- LEEANNE TONGUE.
- Friends and family of Bo at his death.
- Leroy Johnson, husband of Karen L. Johnson, in the hospital diagnosed with acute leukemia.
- New member Irem Metin, who is recovering from surgery. Please keep Irem, her husband William, and sons Aidan and Benjamin in your prayers.
- Sarah and her children, Emma and Jack, at the loss of their husband/father in an accident.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

ABOUT ST. PAULS

Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

St. Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ+ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 180 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 www.spucc.org

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGPTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.

